

Claims:

1. An electrically heated apparatus for dispensing
5 fragrancing materials and other volatile
 substances to an enclosed volume comprising a
 container containing a quantity of a volatile
 substance, heating means, transfer means for
10 transferring said volatile substance towards
 said heating means and a portable power supply
 for energising said heating means, characterised
 in that said heating means comprises a flexible
 thin film heater comprising a laminate having at
15 least one laminar of resistive material and two
 insulating laminars attached to opposed surfaces
 of the resistive material laminar.
2. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in
20 claim 1 wherein the resistive material has
 positive temperature coefficient
 characteristics.
3. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in
25 claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the resistive
 material is a polymer thick film material or a
 polymer thin film material.
4. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any
30 preceding claim wherein the resistive material
 is formed at least partially from resistive ink.
5. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any
35 of claims 1 to 3 wherein the resistive material
 is formed at least partially from resistive
 wire.

6. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the laminar of resistive material is formed from one or more layers of resistive ink and/or resistive wire each layer having a thickness of between 10 and 1000 microns.
7. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the laminar of resistive material is formed from one or more layers of resistive ink and/or resistive wire each layer having a thickness of between 10 and 100 microns.
8. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the laminar of resistive material is formed from one or more layers of resistive ink and/or resistive wire each layer having a thickness of between 20 and 50 microns.
9. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the thin film heater has an overall thickness of between 20 and 1000 microns.
10. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the thin film heater has an overall thickness of between 40 and 100 microns.
11. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the portable power supply comprises one or more battery cells.

12. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein the battery cell or cells are rechargeable.
- 5 13. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said transfer means comprises a capillary tube.
- 10 14. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any of claims 1 to 12 wherein said transfer means comprises a wick or capillary film.
- 15 15. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein said heating means is attached to or held in proximity to said wick or capillary film.
- 20 16. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein said heating means is located at least partially within said wick.
- 25 17. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein said wick is cylindrical and said heating means is located in a bore of the cylinder.
- 30 18. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein said heating means is wrapped at least partially around an outer surface of said wick.
- 35 19. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising timing means operable to energise said heating means periodically.

20. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the periodicity is pre-programmed.

5

21. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the periodicity is user defined.

10

22. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any of claims 19 to 21 wherein each period of energisation is for between 1 second and 5 minutes.

15

23. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any of claims 19 to 21 wherein each period of energisation is for between 1 second and 1 minute.

20

24. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any of claims 19 to 21 wherein each period of energisation is for between 1 second and 10 seconds.

25

25. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any of claims 19 to 21 wherein each period of energisation is for between 1 second and 5 seconds.

30

26. Electrically heated apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising timing means operable to switch said heating means periodically from a low power state to a high power state.

35